

REMARKS

In the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 25, 2003, claims 1-27 were cancelled and claims 28-48 were newly added. Accordingly, claims 28-48 are pending in this application.

In view of the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Examiner Interview

In the teleconference with the Examiner on March 9, 2005, the Examiner admitted that the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 25, 2003 was received by PTO but not considered accidentally when the Office Action was prepared. Thus, Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all the rejections in the Office Action as they are directed to cancelled claims 1-27, and issue a new action directed to pending claims 28-48.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, as claiming the same invention as that of the claims of the prior U. S. Patent No. 6,626,550. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As mentioned above, in the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 25, 2003, claims 1-27 were cancelled and are no longer pending in this application. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

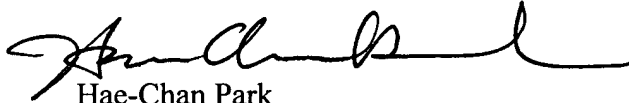
CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 14, 2005

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ATTACHMENT: Communication regarding Change of Correspondence Address

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